

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus for forming a visible image on a recording medium conveyed by conveying means, based on an image data sent from an image formation controller, in a color image formation mode for forming a color image or a monochromatic image formation mode for forming a monochromatic image, said apparatus by a plurality of color component image forming means corresponding to a plurality of color components including at least black respectively, having:

a plurality of color component image forming units that form a color component image respectively corresponding to a color component including at least black;

a timing signal outputting part that outputs means for outputting a timing signal for instructing to start a formation of a first color component image differing depending on image forming modes, the timing signal being output via a common signal line to said image formation controller;

wherein, when a monochromatic image is to be formed on a preceding recording medium and a color image is to be formed on a succeeding recording medium, said signal outputting means outputs said timing signal corresponding to the [[said]] succeeding recording medium earlier than said timing signal corresponding to the [[said]] preceding recording medium.